



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
GAMBLING COMMISSION**

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**Commission Position Statement
Senate Bill 5055
January 26, 2007**

At the Washington State Gambling Commission's regularly scheduled meeting on January 11, 2007, we discussed Senate Bill 5055. This bill would continue the State's limited waiver of sovereign immunity for legal challenges brought by Indian tribes seeking enforcement of a state/tribal compact. The Commissioners voted unanimously in support of the bill, provided that it extends the sunset clause, instead of removing the date. The Commission does not have a suggestion on how many years the clause should be extended; the clause in the original bill was for six years.

We believe that the waiver has provided the Tribes with an avenue for relief. The waiver has also provided the State with a means to address allegations of bad faith negotiations, should any arise, as it provides Tribes with the means to take disputes to court, if necessary.